

Useful Space Principle: Corollary MDIX

Bert Newman (W. Bloomfield MI) demonstrated that if you are void of spades, you need not open with an artificial strong 2♣ bid, and may gain invaluable bidding room by starting naturally. In the Champion-ship Bracket 1 KO Teams semi-final, Bert held: ♠ void ♥AK4 ♦AKQ965 ♣AK64 in first position. He chose to open 1♦; his partner, Ed White (Grand Blanc MI), responded 1♠, Bert jump shifted to 3♣, Ed gave him 3, and Bert, a practical fellow, bid 6♦. RHO doubled for a spade lead, and Bert redoubled.

At the other table, Bert's counterpart opened 2♣, got a 2♠ response, rebid 3♦, and caught a 3♥ "punt". Seeing no obvious route to any good slam, opener settled for 3NT, which bought the declaration. The full deal was as follows:

♠ 6432

♥ 865

♦ 873

♣ 972

♠ void

♥ AK4

♦ AKQ965

♣ AK64

♠ AJ109

♥ J1097

♦ J

♣ QJ108

Board 8. Love All. Dealer West.

♠ KQ875

♥ Q32

♦ 1042

♣ 53